

National Republican.

W. J. MURTAUGH, Editor and Proprietor.
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NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS, WHETHER IN BUSINESS

for publication, should be addressed to W. J. MURTAUGH, Proprietor of NATIONAL REPUBLICAN, Washington, D. C.

Mrs. HORACE WHITE, of the Chicago Tribune, is troubled about the cookery question. Those who know Mr. White will not be surprised at this. But cookery is responsible for more bitterness in the column of that journal than all other causes combined.

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THE FREIGHT and Secretary Richardson are determined to withstand the pressure brought to bear upon them by Wall street, to issue a portion of the results and the specimens of our work, after which we will go to the money market. The Executive and the chief financial officer of the Government seem aware of the fact that the real object is to put up the premium on gold, thereby benefiting the Jay Gould ring, which is speculating for a still higher rise.

THE New York Herald takes such trifling as millions of dollars very coolly, as when we say that our new State dollars have been expended on our new State capitol, and from five to seven millions more will be needed to finish it. This will make the structure nearly equal to the National Capitol—in the cost—and that will be something.

Should the State, by some unforeseen circumstance, return to Democratic rule, and for years to come, we will be compelled to pay the cost of the new building, the committee to make the occasion one of patriotic display, and as pleasant as possible.

At this very critical period in the history of the new Republic, everybody is looking to the Constitution's condition is of some importance, for no one knows the day nor the hour when a wonderful change may come over the spirit of the political nightmare which has held her in such dread bondage for so long a time. A special telegram from Havana, under date of the 1st instant, brings a report that at time current in the city to the effect that General Portilla had been made a prisoner by the insurgents, whose cause was still making progress against Spanish rule. The hopes of the revolutionists had been dimmed by the recent defeat of their leader, the Spanish rank and file, and abandonment of two positions. There existed really painful tribulations in the interior, caused by the high price of beef, bought about by a combination of the butchers and slaughterers. There was a disposition on the part of the people to unite against this measure of the capitalists and compel them to act. The party of the future will be the anti-railroad party; the party of purity in government, that will make these giant corporations confine themselves to their legitimate business. They have been plundering our people and corrupting our Government too long, and it is time there should be end of it.

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New Publications

From William Brewster, Second street, between D and E streets, we are in receipt of the "Partington's Patchwork," by H. P. Stilleman, Lee & Shepard, publishers, New York city.

From the same we have "Pay Day at Basel," by L. B. Bowley, D. Torrard, publisher, New York city.

From R. H. Mohan & Co. we are in receipt of the following work: "Star Papers, or, Experiences of Art and Nature," by H. Ward Beecher, with "Young Folks' Stories," by W. H. Becher, "New Life in New England," "Notes of Travel," by Grace Greenwood, T. B. Ford & Co. are the publishers of the above works, New York city.

OFFICIAL:

— WASHINGTON, D. C.—ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, March 26, 1873.

The following letter from the Secretary of the Treasury is copied from the *Advertiser*, giving the information on certain specified questions with a view to legislative action thereon next winter. One of these committees is charged with an inquiry into "the best and most practicable mode of electing the President and Vice President, and providing a tribunal to adjudge and decide all contested questions connected therewith." Mr. Morton, it will be recited, made an able speech upon this question during the session, which attracted the attention of the whole country, one telling, as it did, a complete summary of the evils and objections to the present, cumbersome and inefficient plan. The result of the last election, or rather the death of one of the candidates, strikingly showed how easily the expressed will of the people might be defeated, and the dangers with which the system is attended. The intentions of the fathers of the republic were all well enough, but it is well known that we lost their spirit long ago, and, having lost it, that the adherence to their ideas is to be attributed to the matter referred to is attended with extreme difficulty. The intention of the framers of the Constitution in instituting the electoral college was to call into existence a body of men who should elect a President and Vice President as Congress enacts a law. They were to be left entirely untrammeled and free to select whomever they pleased. The Constitution vests the power of their election not in the people, but in the State legislatures, and it was exercised by nearly all of them in the earlier Presidential elections. As late as 1824 electors were chosen to this way in the States of Delaware, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, and Vermont, and in South Carolina to the outbreak of the war. All these States have, however, remanded the question to the people, but it is in their power to revoke it at any time—at least, they have the constitutional right to do so. That they could do, is, of course, out of the question. The fact is, we are much nearer a pure representative government now than our fathers were in the beginning of the Government. The freedom of the people is becoming every year more enlarged. They are demanding more power, depending less upon Legislatures and Congresses and more upon themselves. Declaration of Independence is a magnificent thing upon paper, but in the light of these later years the student of government and of politics cannot but see in it a good deal of humbug. The gentlemen who framed it were very careful to restrict the power of the people in the fundamental law and in their legislative enactments. As we all, the people have grown

mentally since then, and are destined to grow more within the next quarter of a century.

The demand for popular Presidents elections today is so strong as to be almost irresistible, and there is no doubt that we shall not elect more than one more President in the old way.

Another subject that will be investigated during the recess of that of commerce between the States. A committee is charged with an inquiry into the whole transportation question, and how far the Government has the right to interfere in the master. Recent events have given this a strong and interesting character. During the last ten years the railroad business of the country has practically fallen into the hands of less than a dozen men, who wield an almost imperial power, and who, it must be said, have not always used that power for the benefit of the people. The progress of railroad consolidation has grown to such an extent as to crush out competition and to reduce the populations of whole States to a condition of absolute vagabondage. The West is in ruins, and against the tyrannical grip of these monopolies the farmers of Illinois assembled only a few days ago in that state to devise ways and means to resist their aggressions. In a night, as it were, this question has grown to be the greatest question of the hour upon which there is every reason to believe the parties of the future will be marshaled. The farmers of Illinois—a State which more than any other in the Union has experienced the good as well as the evil effects of railroads—may be said to have already given the keynote to the anti-railroad war in the resolution they have adopted.

which gives our laws, plunders our soil, corrupts our people, and corrupts our Government, must be subdued, and made to subserve public interests at whatever cost.

This is an unmistakable ringing to this, and there is no use in any party attempting to resist it. There breathes through it the spirit that blackened the waters of Boston about a hundred years ago, and kindled the flames of the Revolution. We have experienced this tyranny in the city of Washington. For years the president of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, a shrewd and shrewd man, growth, changed to corruption, corruption on freight and passenger traffic, and by his immense power in Congress killed every effort to obtain a competing line. For years and years, by the aid of deadhead passes and, for all we know, other means which may be covered by the phrase, "corrupting our Government," he has held the national capital in his grasp, and made it a mere way-side village. Our emancipation came only with the coming of another railroad king more powerful than he. Mr. Garrett has placed himself above the law, and rules his empire across our streets in defiance of authority, and for years he has not paid a cent of taxes upon his property. The farmers of Illinois do not sound the alarm a moment too soon, and it is well for the Republican party that it has thus early in the day bestirred itself to action. The party of the future will be the anti-railroad party; the party of purity in government, that will make these giant corporations confine themselves to their legitimate business. They have been plundering our people and corrupting our Government too long, and it is time there should be end of it.

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